

"GREEN FAMILY" MODEL: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE AND NATIONAL APPROACHES

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Abstract: In this article, the concept of the "green family" model, its essence and significance are analyzed. Family practices promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle in various foreign countries are studied, and the legal, cultural, and economic foundations for implementing this model in Uzbekistan are examined. Furthermore, the possibilities of harmonizing national values with ecological sustainability are analyzed.

Keywords: green family, ecological culture, sustainable development, environmental education, green energy, international experience, Uzbekistan, national approach.

INTRODUCTION

The "green family" model: international experience and national approaches

In the 21st century, as humanity faces ecological problems, the issue of environmental sustainability has become a pressing concern that must be addressed not only at the state level but also within each family. From this perspective, the "green family" model is becoming an important tool for shaping environmental awareness in society and ensuring sustainable development.

The aim of this article is to develop national approaches and provide recommendations for forming a "green family" model in Uzbekistan, based on the study of international experiences.

1. The Concept of the "Green Family" Model

The term "green family" refers to a family unit that adheres to the principles of environmental protection, energy and resource conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and the adoption of an eco-friendly lifestyle. In this model, environmental knowledge and skills are instilled in every member of the family and implemented in daily life.

A green family includes the following key areas:

1. saving water and electricity;
2. sorting and recycling waste;
3. using local and environmentally friendly products;
4. giving preference to green transportation;
5. promoting environmental education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

2. Analysis of international experiences

2.1. Experience of Germany

The concept of the "Grüne Familie" (green family) is widely applied in Germany. Families are encouraged by legislation and practical programs to use green energy sources (such as solar panels and wind turbines), to separate waste, and to utilize eco-friendly transport.

In 2022, Germany recorded a record in green electricity production. According to the Federal Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW), the share of green electricity in the country reached 47% that year, up from 42% in 2021. However, the share of coal in the energy sector also increased from 28.3% to 31.9%, due to the need to save gas. Additionally, by the end of 2021, nuclear power plants in the country were decommissioned.

Despite the rise in CO₂ emissions in the energy sector, BDEW Executive Board Chair Kerstin Andreae emphasized the need for urgent action to protect the environment and to increase the share of renewable energy sources.

According to Reuters, in the first half of the current year, the share of renewable energy in Germany was 49%, with calculations based on actual energy consumption, not just production.

Germany is implementing a large-scale program to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. In accordance with the federal climate protection law, it plans to reduce harmful gas emissions by 65% compared to 1990 levels by 2030 and to achieve climate neutrality by 2045.

Multi-billion-euro projects are being implemented across the country to utilize renewable sources, especially wind and solar energy. For example, in 2019, the "Arkona" wind farm was launched near the island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea. Its 60 turbines, each 175 meters tall, can supply energy to 400,000 households and operate almost 360 days a year. The Berlin government supports the development of green energy through incentives and financial assistance.

It is noteworthy that Germany also cooperates with Uzbekistan in the field of alternative energy. Specifically, there are plans to modernize four thermal power plants in Tashkent in partnership with SIEMENS AG, a leading German company in green energy.

2.2. Experience of Japan

In Japan, the green lifestyle is promoted by teaching children ecological values from an early age. The culture of waste sorting, reuse, and energy saving is deeply ingrained in families.

One of the most notable aspects is that despite the absence of garbage bins on most Japanese streets, the cities are remarkably clean. Japan's leading role in sustainability is due to several factors, including:

1. Recycling (Risaikuru) is taken very seriously: While many countries separate waste into "recyclable" and "non-recyclable," Japan has more than 10 different recycling categories. Households and companies are legally required to sort their waste and flammable materials into transparent plastic bags. This system reflects the core principles of the "Green Family" model. If waste is improperly sorted or disposed of, local authorities take action.

Japanese elementary school children are taught to rinse, cut, and dry used milk cartons after lunch. These cartons are then bundled and sent for recycling into toilet paper. Schools don't employ janitors; instead, children clean their own classrooms, reinforcing the habit of sorting waste correctly.

2. People are encouraged to live in energy-efficient homes: In 2009, the government introduced the Eco-Point system, which allowed consumers to earn "eco points" by purchasing environmentally friendly household appliances and fixtures. These points could be used for discounts on other goods. This market-based policy not only helps combat climate change but also encourages both consumers and companies to adopt and produce eco-friendly technologies.

2.3. Scandinavian Countries

In Sweden and Norway, green families benefit from tax incentives, "eco-neighborhood" concepts, and special ecological schools for children. Environmental responsibility is promoted from the preschool level. Notably, there are various privileges for families that adopt an ecological lifestyle, such as:

tax reductions for energy-efficient homes;

tax breaks and free parking for electric or low-emission vehicles;

subsidies or compensation for installing renewable energy systems (e.g., solar panels, geothermal heating);

programs promoting waste separation and composting.

Eco-neighborhoods are highly developed in Norway and Sweden. These areas feature passive houses (with very low energy consumption), green roofs, rainwater collection systems, and local food production.

Public transportation systems are well-developed, allowing for car-free living. These neighborhoods focus on promoting sustainable living and environmental awareness within society.

Creating ecological schools and kindergartens is also a pressing issue. Children are taught from a young age to care for nature, sort waste properly, and save energy. In some schools, textbooks are even made from recycled materials. The concept of "forest schools," where children spend most of their time outdoors, is widespread.

Meals are prepared using organic and often locally sourced products.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Opportunities for implementing the "green family" model in Uzbekistan

1. Legal Framework
Uzbekistan has adopted several laws and programs to ensure environmental sustainability, such as the Law "On Environmental Protection" and the national project "Yashil Makon" (Green Space), which promote green ideas. However, the "green family" model has not yet been fully developed.

2. National Values and Environmental Culture
Uzbek traditions, lifestyle, agricultural practices, and the principle of frugality align with the green family model. For example, minimizing food waste, caring for plants, and respecting nature can serve as foundational values for the model.

Practical Approaches and Recommendations

It is important to:

Introduce special educational programs to raise environmental awareness among family members;

Integrate the "green family" concept into preschool and school education;

Promote the use of green energy (solar, biogas) systems in households;

Develop local projects for waste sorting;

Organize competitions such as "Green Family – Green Future."

Conclusion

In conclusion, the "Green Family" model holds strategic importance in shaping environmental awareness and responsibility within society against the backdrop of modern ecological challenges. Through this model, every family member becomes an active participant in the process of environmental sustainability and is encouraged to apply ecological principles in their daily life. Global experience shows that the successful implementation of the "Green Family" concept depends on several critical factors: the presence of a stable legislative framework, integration of environmental education at all levels, development of financial and economic incentives, and alignment with national culture and values.

In particular, the experiences of countries such as Germany, Japan, and the Scandinavian nations highlight the significance of family unity, energy efficiency, waste recycling, and deeply rooted environmental education in achieving ecological sustainability. These aspects are also highly relevant in the context of Uzbekistan, where national values — such as love for nature, thriftiness, avoidance of wastefulness, and diligence — can effectively enhance the impact of the "Green Family" model when properly harmonized.

To implement this model in Uzbekistan, the following strategic directions must be pursued through systematic measures:

Organizing educational programs and training sessions to improve families' ecological literacy;

Integrating components of environmental education into preschool and general secondary education systems;

Developing financial mechanisms to promote the use of green energy sources;

Launching pilot projects for waste sorting and recycling at the community level;

Attracting public attention to ecological upbringing through competitions and campaigns such as "Green Family – Green Future."

Moreover, at the state policy level, the "Green Family" concept should be advanced as a separate strategic direction, integrated into national environmental strategies, and supported by scientific research. In this way, the "Green Family" model can become a sustainable social mechanism that not only prevents ecological crises but also helps ensure a healthy and clean environment for future generations.

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